

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122503
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:ECA:RWZIMMERMANN:LK
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USOAS:RWHITE
S/S-O:AWOTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122503

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ZIMMERMANN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BR, UY

SUBJECT: PARAGUAY AND THE IAHR

1. AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR CAME TO DEPARTMENT MAY 25 AT REQUEST OF DIRECTOR ARA/ECA TO REVIEW THE BIDDING ON PARAGUAY'S COMMITMENT TO AGREE TO VISIT BY INTER AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC).

2. ZIMMERMANN INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THAT YOUR LATEST CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES AND CONRADO PAPPALARDO INDICATED THAT NO NEW INITIATIVES BY THE IAHR WERE NEEDED AS THE COMMISSION'S FEBRUARY 4 COMMUNICATION REMAINED ON THE TABLE WITHOUT DEFINITIVE ANSWER ; IT WAS A QUESTION OF PATIENCE.

3. THE AMBASSADOR AND ZIMMERMANN REVIEWED THE STATUS OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 122503

THE IAHR REPORT ON PARAGUAY, THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WITHIN THE COMMISSION, THE EARLIER ASSURANCES BY NOGUES AND PAPPALARDO, THE FACT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT HAD EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THE GOP'S DECISION IN THE COURSE OF THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, THAT THE PARAGUAYAN LOANS HAD BEEN APPROVED WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES AND THE DANGER

OF NOT ACTING QUICKLY BEFORE CONGRESS TOOK ACTION AGAINST PARAGUAY.

4. RESPONDING TO MY CURIOSITY AS TO WHY NOGUES AND PAPPALARDO COUNSELED PATIENCE, LOPEZ ESCOBAR, AFTER SOME

OBVIOUS SOUL SEARCHING, CONFIDED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS BRAZIL, WHICH WAS IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE SEEKING TO PREVENT PARAGUAY FROM ALLOWING THE IAHRG TO VISIT. HE NOTED THAT THE BRAZILIAN TECHNICAL MILITARY MISSION IN ASUNCION WORKS PREDOMINANTLY WITH THE CABALLERIA, THE PRINCIPAL FORCE IN PARAGUAY, WHOSE COMMANDER, GENERAL RODRIGUEZ, HAS A DAUGHTER MARRIED TO A YOUNGER SON OF STROESSNER. THIS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN THE CHANNEL FOR PRESSURE ON STROESSNER. HE REPEATEDLY ASKED THAT HE BE FULLY PROTECTED IN PASSING THIS CONFIDENCE. ZIMMERMANN ASSURED HIM THAT HE WOULD BE PROTECTED AND THAT IN FACT WE HAD BEEN SPECULATING WHETHER BRAZIL WAS A FACTOR IN THE PRESENT EQUATION.

5. LOPEZ ESCOBAR FURTHER CONFIDED THAT PAPPALARDO HAD CALLED HIM TO RELATE THE ABOVE NEWS, EMBELLISHED WITH STRONG EXPLETIVES. NOGUES AND STROESSNER, HE SAID, INTEND TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM IN THE COURSE OF THEIR TRIP TO BOLIVIA AND NOGUES HAS PROMISED TO CALL LOPEZ ESTRADA ON SATURDAY AFTER THE RETURN TO ASUNCION.

6. IT WAS CLEAR ON HIS DEPARTURE THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD NO INTENTION OF REPORTING THIS CONVERSATION TO ASUNCION AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH HE WILL SURELY MENTION IT WHEN HE TALKS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 122503

WITH NOGUES ON SATURDAY. ASIDE FROM THE TIMING OF STROESSNER'S BOLIVIAN TRIP, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT HE CONSIDER-

RS THE MATTER TOO DELICATE AT THIS POINT FOR HIM TO SEND A MESSAGE OR EVEN MAKE A PHONE CALL. HE SAID HE WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO AWAIT NOGUES' CALL.

7. THIS DESCRIPTION OF BRAZIL'S EFFORTS TO REVERSE GOP DECISION REGARDING IAHRG SUGGESTS GOB CONCERN MAY BE MAJOR FACTOR IN ITS ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENTIAL MEETING PROPOSED FOR ASUNCION. ASUNCION 2064 HAS BEEN REPEATED BRASILIA AND CARACAS 5163 HAS BEEN REPEATED BOTH ASUNCION AND BRASILIA. WOULD APPRECIATE ADDRESSEE COMMENTS. VANCE

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